

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJECT: "TIMES" ACCUSES U.S. OF INTERFERENCE IN BELIZEAN
AFFAIRS

1. IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, THE BELIZE "TIMES" OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973, ACCUSED THE C.I.A. AND THE UNITED STATES OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF BELIZE. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT A "MASTERMIND" WHO IS SECRETLY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IS IN CHARGE OF THIS COVERT EFFORT. PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL FROM BELIZE TO THE U.S. ARE USUALLY SUSPECTED BY U.S. CUSTOMS OF BEING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

"THE FACT THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE IN BELIZE CAN TRAVEL IN AND OUT OF THE U.S. WIOHOUT DIFFICULTY MEANS THAT SOME-ONE IN HIGH PLACES IS PROTECTING THEM. THE AVERAGE BELIZEAN WHO WANTS TO VISIT THE U.S. FINDS IT NEAR TO IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A VISA JUST FOR A SHORT STAY. YET THESE SABOTEURS OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE HAVE FREE ACCESS INTO THE U.S. AND HAVE ALREADY SET UP A VAST POLITICAL MACHINERY IN THAT COUNTRY WHICH IS INCREAS-INGLY INTERFERING IN BELIZEAN POLITICS."

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THE ARTICLE ENDS WITH A FINAL FLOURISH:

"APART FROM THE USE OF BELIZEANS TO SUBVERT THEIRPOWN GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY, THERE ARE (SIC) ALSO OTHER EVIDENCE OF U.S. INTERFERENCE."

2. MOST LIKELY THE "MASTERMIND" IS PAUL RODRIGUEZ, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY AND A FORMER EDITOR OF THE -RE-PORTER." HE IS ONE OF FEW WELL EDUCATED AND ARTICULATE CITIZENS IN BELIZE. THE "TIMES" HAS PREVIOUSLY ACCUSED HIM OF BEING A "SECRET" U.S. CITIZEN.

3. THIS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE "TIMES" EITHER ATTACKING THE U.S. AND ITS LEADERS DIRECTLY OR ALLEGING U.S. INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL BELIZEAN AFFAIRS. THIS ARTICLE IS NOTABLE IN THAT IT IS BETTER WRITTEN AND IN BETTER TASTE THAN THE AVERAGE LATELY. THE "TIMES" EDITORIAL POLICY OF LATE HAS BEEN SET BY ASSAD SHOMAN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PREMIER, WHO IS DESCRIBED LOCALLY AS A "SCHOOLBOY MARXIST." THE PREMIER, GEORGE PRICE, IS A PART OWNER OF THE "TIMES." HE SPENDS AT LEAST AN HOUR EVERY WEDNESDAY AND EVERY FRIDAY AT THE OFFICE OF THE "TIMES," WHICH IS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF HIS PUP PARTY. THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION IS THAT THE PREMIER IS AWARE OF THE RECENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE U.S. IF NOT ACTIVELY PROMOTING IT.

4. COMMENT: ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO AVOID NAGGING PROBLEMS AT HOME IS TO EXTERNALIZE THEM ABROAD. THE U.S., WHICH LOOMS VERY LARGE IN EVERY ASPECT OF BELIZEAN LIFE, IS AN OBVIOUS TARGET. CIA PLOTS IMAGINED IN UNSOPHISTICATED MINDSNOFFER AN EASILY USED: IF UNORIGINAL, FRAMEWORK. WHAT BETTER, MORE CONVENIENT BRUSH TO PAINT ONE' ENEMIES THAN THAT OF TREASON FOR A FOREIGN POWER. BUT THE PREMIER'S MOTIVES IN CONDONING, OR AT LEAST TOLERATING, THIS CAMPAIGN ARE UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, WITH A NATIONAL ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE NEXT YEAR THE PUP WILL MOST LIKELY USE ITS NEWSPAPER TO ATTACK THE U.S. FOR ITS POLITICAL PURPOSES IN BELIZE AS IT SUITS THE PREMIER AND HIS PARTY. DRISCOLL

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